

RETURN

(99)

To an Order of the House of Commons, dated the 29th January, 1908, for a copy of all correspondence, telegrams, or reports, respecting the refusal of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia to give his assent to a Bill passed by the Legislature of that province in 1907, respecting immigration and commonly referred to as the Natal Act.

R. W. SCOTT,
Secretary of State.

OTTAWA, April 23, 1907.

Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia,
Victoria, B.C.

Your premier Mr. McBride assured me that the Bill entitled, An Act to regulate Immigration into British Columbia would not receive assent, but would be reserved for consideration of government. Can I rely on this assurance?

R. W. SCOTT.

VICTORIA, B.C., April 24, 1907.

Hon. R. W. SCOTT,
Ottawa.

Your telegram received, Bill referred to will not receive my assent.

JAS. DUNSMUIR,
Lt. Governor.

AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

VICTORIA, B.C., April 29, 1907.

The Honourable
The Secretary of State.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that I prorogued the Legislative Assembly of this Province on the 25th instant, at which time I assented to a number of Bills, duplicate copies of which I am forwarding to-day by registered mail.

I have thought it advisable to reserve for the pleasure of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, Bill No. 30, An Act to regulate Immigration into British Columbia.

My reasons for doing so, are, that this Bill appears to be but a modified form of

7-8 EDWARD VII., A. 1908

other Acts dealing with the same subject, which have already been disallowed by His Excellency, and should it become law, might seriously interfere with our international relations and Federal interests.

JAMES DUNSMUIR,
Lieutenant Governor.

OTTAWA, May 7, 1907.

His Honour

The Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia,
Victoria, British Columbia.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 29th ultimo, acquainting the Secretary of State that you have deemed it advisable to reserve for the pleasure of His Excellency the Governor General, Bill No. 30 of your Legislature intituled 'An Act to regulate Immigration into British Columbia,' and giving your reasons for this course. Your despatch has been submitted to His Excellency the Governor General in Council.

I have to add that the duplicate copies of the Bills referred to in your despatch as having been assented to by your Honour on the 26th ultimo have been duly received.

J. POPE,
Under-Secretary of State.

VICTORIA, B.C., January 27, 1908.

SECRETARY OF STATE,
Ottawa, Ont.

Local House requests that I lay before them correspondence with you reserving assent to Bill number thirty of last session, shall I accede to their request?

JAMES DUNSMUIR,
Lt. Governor.

OTTAWA, January 27, 1908.

His Honour,
JAMES DUNSMUIR,
Victoria, B.C.

Yes. My telegram and your answer in reference to Exclusion Bill thirty of last session, together with your letter when forwarding Bills to Ottawa may be laid before Provincial House.

R. W. SCOTT.